[Ibuki Satsuki's Comic Collection]

MASTER, I'M DONE COPYING THE BOOKS
MM.
...YOU KNEW HOW TO READ AND WRITE. FROM THE LOOKS OF YOUR WRITING, YOU'RE NO STRANGER TO THIS... NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU TRIED TO BE SLOPPY,
YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO HIDE YOUR FAMILIARITY WITH THE BRUSH. YOUR FAMILY MUST HAVE BEEN WELL OFF. THAT'S THE REAL REASON WHY YOU REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE XU FENG AS YOUR MOTHER.
.....
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TALK ABOUT IT IF YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE IT. I CAN GUESS WHAT HAPPENED

MY MY FAMILY WAS IMPLICATED IN A CASE OF TREASON THAT'S ALL.
FENG'ER'S LEG REQUIRES TIME TO HEAL. SINCE SHE DELAYED TREATMENT FOR SUCH A LONG TIME, A COMPLETE RECOVERY IS UNLIKELY.
THAT'S RIGHT—
IF FENG'ER HAD SOUGHT TREATMENT IN THE EARLY STAGES OF HER ILLNESS, CURED HER FEVER AND RESULT HER IMMUNE SYSTEM EARLIER, THE PROGNOSIS WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE OPTIMISTIC.
SHIJIE, YOU'RE AMAZING!
LEARNING NEVER ENDS. A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND LI* IS ACHIEVED THROUGH THE ACCUMULATION OF LITTLE STEPS. AS LONG AS YOU PUT IN THE WORK PATIENTLY, IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO START.
HEHE, THAT'S TRUE!
*LI= CHINESE MILE
1 LI (里) =0.311 MILES

I WAS 3, 4 YEARS OLDER THAN YOU BEFORE I TOOK A SERIOUS STAB AT LEARNING THE MEDICAL ARTS
EH? WHY?
*QIAN (千): UNIT OF MEASUREMENT USED IN TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE
I GOT IT MASTER! YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL ME THAT HARD WORK WILL BE REWARDED AS LONG AS I WORK HARD, THERE WILL COME A DAY WHEN I TOO CAN BE LIKE MASTER!
HMM
WELL, NOT EXACTLY. I WAS NATURALLY TALENTED TO BEGIN WITH.
OH.

HAVE YOU GUYS SEEN QIUBAO TODAY?
NO, WE HAVEN'T!
WHERE DID HE RUN OFF TO? HE CAUSES SO MUCH WORRYING!
FENG ER, I'M GOING TO DELIVER MEDICINE TO THE TOWNSFOLK. COME WITH ME, I HAVE MONEY I CAN TREAT YOU TO DELICIOUS FOOD!
OKAY
BE CAREFUL, COME BACK AS SOON AS YOU'RE DONE!
GOT IT!
SIGH
SUCH FICKLE WEATHER...

THEY'RE STILL NOT BACK YET. I HOPE THEY COME BACK BEFORE IT RAINS....
NEED ANY HELP? CAN I COME IN?
...OKAY.
RATHER THAN AN EPIDEMIC OUTBREAK, IT SEEMS MORE LIKE A CASE OF MASS POISONING TO ME. I JUST HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT THE CAUSE YET.
THE NUMBER OF PATIENTS HAVE BEEN STEADILY INCREASING. IF THIS SITUATION CONTINUES WITHOUT US FINDING ANY LEADS...
MASTER!
WHAT'S WRONG?
MASTER!

1
MASTER, SHE STARTED BURNING UP ALL OF A SUDDEN.
SHE WAS FINE BEFORE WE SET OFF
PENG PENG!
WE'VE ONLY BEEN TO A FEW HOUSEHOLDS. WE DIDN'T GO ANYWHERE ELSE AT ALL. THE PATIENTS FROM THE FAMILIES WE VISITED ONLY SUFFERED FROM INJURIES AND NOT FEVERS LIKE HERS....
HER SYMPTOMS ARE JUST LIKE THOSE OF THE PATIENTS INSIDE...

SHE BECAME DIZZY WHILE WE WERE WALKING...
THINK CAREFULLY DO YOU REMEMBER ENCOUNTERING ANYTHING UNUSUAL? ANY STRANGE FOOD, SMELLS, PEOPLE OR THE LIKE?
WE BOUGHT SOME SNACKS... BUT DIDN'T EAT THEM. NEITHER DID WE MEET ANY ONE STRANGE...
AH, WHILE MAKING OUR WAY THERE, WE PASSED BY AN ENTRANCE TO A LANE WHERE A GROUP OF REFUGEES WERE CONGREGATING. SHIJIE WENT TO TAKE A LOOK. THERE WAS A PUTRID STENCH, AS WELL AS A FAINT FRAGRANCE IN THE AIR.
IT WAS LIKE... LIKE...
!!!
THESE BUTTER-FLIES.
CAREFUL, DON'T TOUCH THEM!
I KNEW THIS HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT TROUBLEMAKER!

NO, IT'S TOO EARLY TO JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS IF QIUBAO BACK?
Feng'er, be careful! Don't touch it!
NOT YET
COUGH.
I'M BACK...
.....
.....
GOOD HEAVENS!

—HOLY MOTHER OF BODHISATTVAS! WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED TO YOU?!
MN. I WAS A STEP TOO LATE. I SHOULD HAVE STOPPED RENGPENG FROM PASSING BY SORRY
WHAT DID YOU FIND OUT? DID YOU GET INTO A FIGHT?
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT
AH, THERE'S POISON
CAREFUL NOW YOU WON'T FEEL THE EFFECTS OF THE POISON NOW BUT LEAVE IT UNTREATED ANY LONGER AND IT WON'T BE LONG TILL YOU GO, HEHE!
!

AIYAH... EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T BULLY THE SILLY GIRL, POISONING BROTHER BEGGAR TO DEATH SEEMS FUN TOO.
SHUT UP! THIS WAS OBVIOUSLY THE TIANYI CULT'S POISON AND NOT YOUR DOING!
CONTINUE ANTAGONIZING US DELIBERATELY AND THERE'LL BE HELL TO PAY!
AH TUO, LOOK AT THIS PTOMAINE!
...
THE SILLY GIRL'S BRAIN WORKS FASTER THAN USUAL WHEN SHE'S MAD. SHE MUST BE HARD TO PLEASE, HMM?
EVEN THOUGH THESE PEOPLE MOST LIKELY FELL ILL DUE TO ANOTHER POISON, THIS CONFIRMS MY HYPOTHESIS...

SEEING AS THE PATIENTS HERE WEREN'T POISONED TO DEATH, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THEY WERE CONDUCTING EXPERIMENTS USING A VARIETY OF PEOPLE.
YOU MEAN THEY'RE TRYING TO CREATE NEW POISONS?
I'M AFRAID IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE. SUIYANG CITY FRUSTRATED THE ATTACKING ARMY'S ADVANCEMENT FOR SO LONG. IT'D BE DISASTROUS IF THE REBEL FORCES JOINED HANDS WITH THE CULT IN SOME KIND OF DIABOLICAL SCHEME —PERHAPS A SCHEME TO USE AN EPIDEMIC OUTBREAK AS A COVER.

IS THAT WHY YOU TRIED TO APPROACH ME YESTERDAY?
CLEVER.
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SO CONFIDENT IN YOUR ABILITY TO SEDUCE PEOPLE.
YOU DISGUSTING PIECE OF SHIT. I'M NOT LIKE YOU. I'M NOT SOME KIND OF WHORE WHO'S WILLING TO DO ANYTHING TO GET WHAT I WANT.
WHAT SHOULD I DO? WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING ISN'T WORKING. I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING I CAN THINK OF.
NOW I'VE GOT ONE MORE STEP AFTER THIS. I'LL MAKE THEM PAY FOR WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO ME.
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR IT TO HAPPEN, BUT IT'S TOOK AN AWFULLY LONG TIME TO COMMA
SO CURSED.
THE JOY I'VE FELT FROM BEING WITH YOU IS BEYOND WORDS.
I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY

CHAPTER EXTRAS